Coal linkage to Cement Factories

3820. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of coal linkages being provided to cement factories proposed to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether all these linkages are progressing as per the original schedule;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the expected time and cost overruns ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Coal linkages on long-term basis have been agreed for 31 new/expansion cement plants which were identified for the 8th Plan period.

The cement factories for which long-term coal linkages had been agreed in 1990 are reported to be progressing as per schedule except 3 factories for which linkages given in 1990 were subsequently withdrawn. No other cement unit has so far reported cost overruns for lack of/delay in providing long-term coal linkages.

The total committed linkages to cement plants (including existing plants) are about 15.05 million tonnes per annum.

Scrapping of the practice of joint sampling

3821. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Ltd. has decided to scrap the present practice of having joint sampling of coal at both the loading and the unloading points and to have it instead only at the loading point; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Coal Companies are responsible for supply of right quality and correct quantity of coal at the pithead. Pithead siding where coal is loaded is the point where coal is transferred as property to consumers. Therefore the quality and quantity of coal supplied have to be chacked at the loading points by the consumers. Government has decided that an idependent 3rd Party Inspection Agency for quality assurance in coal should be established preferably through Coal Controller's Organisation on a self-financing basis. All quality inspections should be done at the colliery and before despatch and not at the consumers end after despatch and any discrepency should be sorted out on that basis.

Consequence of blockage of coal supply to Bihar

3822 . SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that steel plants, Thermal Power Plants and other major coal users have become vulnerable due to frequent blockades of coal supply to Bihar;

(b) if so, what is the impact of such frequent blockades on the economy;

(c) what alternate steps are proposed to build up stocks of coal in other sites in the country; and

(d) whether there are any proposal to increase production at Singareni Collieries in Andhra Pradesh to ensure steady supplies of Coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Any agitation, bandh or blockade, which disrupts movement of coal, results in reduced coal supplies to consumers. Generally the movement capacity so lost cannot be made up subsequently and as such production in some coal consuming units gets adversely affected. For the economy, it would mean a lower National Income and reduced growth rate. All possible efforts are made to keep up supplies of coal to core sector consumers even during the agitations/bandhs/blockades. With improvement in coal supplies, it has also been possible for consumers to build up their own coal stocks to deal with any disruptions in supplies.